Standing Committee's views:

In his Presidential Address at the last Session, the President had explained the reasons for the delay in enacting archival legislation on the lines recommended by the Committee on Archival Legislation. It was further stated that the Government of India proposed to issue in the first instance, a Policy Resolution covering the entire gamut of archives administration. The Policy Resolution has since been issued. A copy of it will be sent to each State Government, which can issue similar resolution or legislation. The question of enacting an archival law covering the Central and State Archives will be taken up later.

J. Publication of Records

(22) Resolution by Dr. Durgaprasad Bhattacharya

"Resolved that the Indian Historical Records Commission notes with pleasure that the complete records of the first systematic statistical survey of India conducted by Dr. Francis Buchanan (Hamilton) during 1807-14 have been procured in 14 microfilm reels by the Indian Statistical Institute at the instance of late Professor P.C. Mahalanobis from the India Office Library. The Commission is glad to learn that late Professor P.C. Mahalanobis desired to publish these records duly edited in several volumes. The Indian Historical Records Commission requests the Indian Statistical

Institute to publish these invaluable documents of the first systematic Statistical Survey of India for the benefit of scholars".

Explanatory note:

Dr. Francis Buchanan was appointed by the Directors of the East India Company in 1807 to conduct a full and accurate statistical survey of the territories under the immediate authority of the Presidency of Fort William. As per instruction, Francis Buchanan was directed particularly to collect information on topography, history and antiquity, conditions of inhabitants including their number, the state of their food, clothing and habitations, the natural productions of the country, fisheries, forests, mines and quarries, all aspects of agriculture, implements of husbandry, cattle, poultry and other domestic animals, the state of firms, the state of landed property and tenures, progress made by Indians in fine arts and common arts, commerce, etc. In pursuance to these instructions, Dr. Buchanan was occupied during the years 1807-1811, in conducting a survey in the Districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Patna and Gaya, Shahabad and Gorakhpur. Buchanan submitted his voluminous reports with statistical tables and drawings. The original records occupying 25 folio volumes in manuscript were despatched to the Court of Directors and are now lying at the India Office Library. A small part of the manuscript appeared in the Gleanings of Science (Asiatic Society, Calcutta). R.M. Martin published three volumes of the "Eastern India"

containing abridged version of Buchanan's work. The Bihar and Orissa Research Society published the reports of all the Bengal Districts excluding the northern parts of the District of Gorakhpur, but the wealth of statistical tables were missing altogether. Only parts of the tables of Bihar and Patna appeared. There will be perhaps no difference of opinion that the publication of the entire manuscript in suitable form will be of immense value to the Indian scholars.

(23) Resolution by Dr. G.D.Patel

"The Indian Historical Records Commission is of the view that the State Governments should chalk out a programme of publication of important historical records pertaining to their States. Emphasis should be laid on preparation of histories of politically important families and regions. Priority should be given to such periods of history which are obscure and not explored by research scholars and Universities. The Commission should serve as a supervisory and co-ordinating agency for implementing such publication programme.

Standing Committee's views:

While discussing the various publication programmes of the National Archives of India, the Tara Chand Committee on Archival Legislation (1960) recommended that "the present practice of publishing the full texts or the abridged summaries of a record series in its entirety or selections from them should cease .....and **that** the privilege